

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
130<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR AND FIRST SPECIAL SESSIONS



Disposition of bills and summaries of all laws enacted or finally passed

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENERGY,  
UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY**

December 2021

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## JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY

### **LD 347 An Act To Facilitate Maine’s Climate Goals by Encouraging Use of Electric Vehicles**

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2021, chapter 402 does the following.

1. It amends the Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Fund established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 10125 to provide that expenditures from the fund must be consistent with the allowable uses of and any criteria or limitations placed upon the expenditure of those funds by the sources of those funds.
2. It amends eligibility criteria for electric vehicle rebates under the Electric Vehicle Fund established in Title 35-A, section 10126.
3. It directs the Public Utilities Commission to open an inquiry to review alternative rate structures to support electric vehicle charging stations for nonresidential applications, including, but not limited to, for light duty vehicles, medium duty vehicles, heavy duty vehicles and transit and other fleet vehicles. As part of that inquiry, the commission must require each transmission and distribution utility in the State to develop and submit by November 1, 2021 one or more proposed rate schedules to support the installation and sustainable operation of existing and new electric vehicle charging stations. It requires that, no earlier than April 1, 2022, the commission approve, approve with modifications or reject a rate schedule proposed by a transmission and distribution utility. On or before February 15, 2022, the commission is required to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology regarding its findings from that inquiry and any recommendations, including any proposed legislation, regarding the establishment of alternative rate structures to support electric vehicle charging stations for nonresidential applications. After reviewing the report, the joint standing committee may report out legislation related to the commission's report to the 130th Legislature.

### **LD 385 An Act To Resolve Conflicts in and Make Other Changes to the Laws Governing the Efficiency Maine Trust**

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2021, chapter 209 reconciles a number of conflicts in the Efficiency Maine Trust Act created through the enactment of different legislation during the 129th Legislature.

It provides as goals for the Efficiency Maine Trust:

1. The weatherization by 2030 of 35,000 homes and businesses, with at least 10,000 of such projects completed in low-income households through the combined efforts of the trust and the Maine State Housing Authority;

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2. The promotion of the purchase of high-efficiency heat pump systems to achieve by 2030 the goal of at least 115,000 households in the State wholly heated by heat pumps and an additional 130,000 households in the State partially heated by heat pumps; and
3. The promotion of the purchase of battery electric vehicles and plug-in hybrid vehicles to achieve by 2030 the goal of at least 120,000 such vehicles registered in the State.

It broadens the existing authorization for the trust to establish training programs for installers of solar energy equipment to include energy equipment generally. It also authorizes the trust to offer training programs to code enforcement officers, inspectors or other professionals involved in designing, marketing, regulating or educating about energy equipment and to offer training programs to contractors or other professionals involved in designing, installing or constructing energy efficiency, weatherization or other building performance measures for homes and businesses.

### **LD 487 An Act Regarding Certain Employees of and To Provide for the Payment of Certain Filing Fees to the Public Advocate**

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2021, chapter 195 changes the title of the Business Services Manager position to Senior Assistant to the Public Advocate to clarify that a person in the position may perform duties aside from business-related duties. It requires the payment of a filing fee to the Office of the Public Advocate by an applicant for approval of a reorganization by the Public Utilities Commission, not to exceed 3/100 of 1% of the total transaction value of the reorganization, to be expended by the Public Advocate in representing the interests of consumers in the reorganization proceeding or conducting public outreach to inform consumers about the proceeding. It requires that, in the case of a petition for approval by the Public Utilities Commission of the erection of a transmission line capable of operating at 69 kilovolts or more, the person filing the petition must pay to the Office of the Public Advocate a filing fee equal to 3/100 of 1% of the estimated cost to erect that transmission line, to be expended by the Public Advocate in representing the interests of consumers in the petition proceeding or conducting public outreach to inform consumers about the proceeding.

### **LD 500 Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 895: Underground Facility Damage Prevention Requirements, a Major Substantive Rule of the Public Utilities Commission**

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Resolve 2021, chapter 16 authorizes final adoption by the Public Utilities Commission of portions of Chapter 895: Underground Facility Damage Prevention Requirements, a provisionally adopted